

I know there has been so much covered at this web site and here is another segment added, but this one is of great importance—I would say, one of the most important. It is about the Testing and Temptations that you will endure as you cross over from your wilderness journey into your own promised land (the beginning of your ministry or the point you SOAR - where the creation will be/do what the Creator created the creation to be/do. The place of your fulfillment—where one lives life more abundantly.) In the Israelite's journey, it would be the time they were crossing over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Joshua 3—5

Now, they had heard about the others who had crossed over the Red Sea, but now it was their turn to step into the “unknown” with “the river being its fullest” and held back on both sides, they crossed over on land to the other side. Joshua 3-5. How fearful they must have been. But this was a test of Faith that was required for them to reach their Promised Land. You see, the test was more for their own benefit as we read Joshua 3:10, “Here is proof that the living God is with you.” From my own wilderness journey, I refer to this time of testing/temptation as “the Final Exam,” as one transitions from their old way of living their life to truly trusting God as they “possess the land” —the beginning of their ministry.

So we read in Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12&13, and Luke 4:13, with special attention to Luke 4:13 &14, of Jesus's own testing and temptations. So why would Jesus have to undergo such testing? These accounts remind us that Jesus was led into the desert/wilderness for 40 days. And then there was the testing/the temptations of Satan. And once the tests were completed/passed, he began his ministry. So, if Jesus was tempted/tested after his journey then we should understand we will also be tested and tempted as well.

So, how about those Israelites who did not pass their Final Exam. Remember the spies that were sent out and came back with the reports? Of the ones sent out—there were two that came back with reports of abundance and Hope; the others came back filling folks with fear. Numbers 13. And, those Israelites who did not trust God, remained in the desert for 40 years until they all died off. This is our example of not trusting God during the testing/temptations that will come during our own “Final Exam” - even after completing the entire 12 –13 year journey*. We must choose to follow and trust God and not to retreat to the ways of the world or to our fears.

So what did my wilderness journey look like? It was in 2005 and it is difficult to remember the process, but my husband just completed his own wilderness journey including testing and temptations. My husband is very logical in thinking, a Moses personality type. I think the greatest struggle he had was with his arrogance associated with his “Expert” addiction. The testing was composed of 3 areas, as was Jesus's and as was mine. Mine were different than my husband's. As a Barnabas Personality, mine was overcoming fear and my “Approval” addiction. Understand, even though there were 3 areas, in my husband's case, there may have been 3 different conflict situations in one of those areas. There was lots and lots and lots of conflict. One might say he/we felt bombarded with conflict and he hates conflict more than I do, in addition came confrontation. Lots of stress. It was emotionally painful—tearing at the fibers of one's heart. But when it was over—it was over quickly, and my husband was changed. The process was so intense, I believe it will have changed him forever. He now has a sense of humility that he never had before; a sense of greater compassion for others, as well as an appreciation for them that was not there prior to this testing process, but most of all, he sees God and seeks Him as the One he needs in his life every minute of every day; before he relied mainly on his own abilities and strengths and saw God as the One he needed when he was in trouble or needed help—more of a situational type need. Now, He has more of a personal relationship with God—desiring Him and recognizing Him in His every day life; realizing that God is the ultimate “Expert of everything,” and he can trust God. To understand my own transformation, please read writing at the end of this segment.

Helpful Notes: Wilderness Journey Final Exam:

“Trust the Lord with all your heart and don’t depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success.” Proverbs 3:5-6 NCV

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Matt 36-40 NCV

And remember, He will never leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

As I started searching there were so many scriptures I wanted to share. Let me suggest that you get a small book of God’s promises that you can stick in your purse, glove box of your car, or in a desk—somewhere handy that you can retrieve and read all about God’s promises, His love for you, His help in times of difficulty, or just when you need a HUG!

Also, in my husband’s final exam, we learned to not focus on the dead tree in the dark swamp surrounded by all the “unknown” swamp creatures with all the wide mouths ready to devour and those filled with venom and poison. In his case, it was the spread sheet he prepared. But keep your eyes focused on the beautiful VISTA before you of the pastels and golden hues and beautiful colors that God has painted for you and wants to take you to. The Swamp is the way you used to live your life; the Vista is your new life, to be lived as the Lord has promised—more abundantly as is written in John 10:10

Possible Areas of Testing and/or Temptation: Whatever areas your struggle in—prepare to be tested:

Security: Financial, Family, Work, Church, Home

Relationship areas: Arrogance, Over Confidence, Ego, Resentment, Bitterness, Division, Lack of Appreciation of Others, Lack of Confidence, Anger, Unforgiveness

Areas of Fear and/or Deception

Areas of Character: Significance, Approval, Prominence, Power, Control, Indulgence, Title, Position, Authority, Ego

From my writing dated: 1/2005 at the end of my Final Exam: I call it—GRADUATION DAY!

“Debbie, I have good news for you. Debbie, do you love me? Do you trust me? Do you know me, Debbie? Then know that I delight when you delight. All I have promised, I will do. Today and tomorrow will not be like yesterdays. You have moved beyond those, Debbie. The pain and suffering you experienced no longer has a hold on your life. You are wise and you are strong. Both of which have surfaced out of your obedience to seek with your whole heart, mind, and entire soul. Debbie, you need not be afraid. I have set a path before you. Debbie, it is filled with Hope, Joy, Warmth, Love, and Heart of one who understands so much that others have never experienced or had the opportunity.

It is my delight, Debbie (last name,) to present you as my Ambassador to represent me as no one has done before. Debbie, you don’t understand, but you are very unique. You have been molded and refined for a purpose—a purpose that only I can provide. Debbie, I’m so excited and thrilled for you. It has been such a long, painful journey. My Princess you will no long walk as the Princess of Woe. You will be my Princess of Compassion; the leader/trainer of Compassion Warriors and Warriorettes.”

This was/is my journey and my purpose; yours will appear much different than mine. But be ready for those days of extreme testing and choose to trust God no matter how difficult it appears. Seek Him with your whole heart, mind, and soul. You have already been given your promise, you have journeyed the path that cleansed and purified your heart and made you ready to possess the land, you are ready for the Final Exam that when you pass, will lead you into your promised land. And with this understanding is the reason I have shared this segment. God loves Me, God Loves You, and He loves and He loves and He loves and we can love because we know we are loved.

Thank you for letting me share! And as you go into your next adventure, take what I have shared with you to share/help others.

Debbie

* The components of my 12 year 7 month journey are detailed in “A Path to Overflowing Hope; New Day.” My husband’s journey was 12 years and 9 months—the Reprogramming Process beginning at mid point. Look for patterns and write what you learn down!

Can You Give Up... to Gain

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Can you give up that which you crave, to discover that which is filling and fulfills.

Can you give up feelings of being scoffed & scorned and be filled with love of your Heavenly Father?

Can you give up feelings of frustration and exasperation and be consumed by a peace that surpasses your understanding

Can you give up feelings of helplessness, worthlessness and uselessness and be molded into the warriorette of compassion

Debbie, I don't see you the way you see yourself or the way you perceive others do,

You have given up / surrendered much, yet you have gained more than your eyes can see.

- Pioneer -

(3 months before
my Wilderness Journey Graduation
Day)

Can you give up
... to gain

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Lord, I tried
Lord, I'm weary
Lord, Where now?

Do you trust me, Debbie
Do you trust me
Do you trust me to love you and never forsake you.

Debbie I sense your disappointment and feelings
of defeat.

Should the clay say to the potter, that's enough
or does the clay submit to the molding as the
Potter firmly holds the clay in his grasp.

Lord, I don't know anything anymore
I don't know whether to come or go.
I am but a prisoner; imprisoned in frustration, exasperation
and disgust.
I am but a beggar, begging for scraps.
Do I lay down and die? I do not know?

Debbie, if you were in my kingdom in heaven,
what would you do there?

Debbie, in my kingdom you must be willing
to be submissive to your king.

You are not to look to the right nor to the left.
This is not about what other's think

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This is the process by which you let go and become what you were destined to be.

So what are you, Debbie
Who are you, Debbie
Who will you become, Debbie

You are a child of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Can you believe that by Faith
It is Faith that will protect you
It is Faith that will give you hope
It is Hope that will supply strength.

Lord, could you give me a measure of hope today.
I want to shut down; I want to hide; I
want to escape; I want it all to end.

Debbie, if you knew something / someone very dear to you, "What would you do if it ran away? What would you do if it hid because it was frightened or hurt? What would you do if it appeared weary and exhausted?"

Would you have felt the same way 13 years ago.
You didn't even have compassion for yourself;
only drive, ambition, and busy, busy, busy.